



County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

November eBLAST

In the Headlines

Board of Supervisors Approves Streamlined Design Review Checklist

The Board approved an ordinance Oct. 23 that will streamline design review processing procedures for commercial, industrial, and multifamily projects on parcels zoned with a "B" Community Design Review Area Designator. Planning & Development Services (PDS) staff worked with the community and industry groups to address inefficiencies with the site plan permit process, and developed community specific checklists to replace the more costly and time consuming discretionary process. Under the new streamlined ministerial approach, applicants prepare their application based on a clear checklist, pay a flat fee of \$1,278 and see significantly reduced processing times. For questions about the Design Review Checklist procedure, please contact Marcus Lubich at (858) 694-8847 or by e-mail at Marcus.Lubich@sdcounty.ca.gov



Lending a Helping Hand



PDS employees spend their workweeks happily helping customers from behind counters, their office desks or out in the field. So it's no surprise that a bunch of them jumped at the chance to spend a little extra time on a hot Saturday morning Sept. 28 to help a couple of special customers — two disabled veterans who are having custom

homes built for them by the Homes for Our Troops program.

PDS Deputy Director, Clay Westling; Plans Examiner Mario Aguinaga; Permit Processor, Carol Gordon; Land Use Technician, Lea Gordon; Engineering Technician, Dagmara Pine and Administrative Analyst, Sue Spotts were

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among nearly 200 volunteers from all around San Diego who gathered to landscape the homes in Rancho San Diego. Together, they hauled and laid sod, dug holes, planted hundreds of trees and shrubs and groundcover, and even put in some irrigation. "Honestly, it went very quick," Westling said. "We did two houses in just a few hours."

PDS Holds Second Customer Service Panel

PDS continues to reach out to our customers to get their perspective on how to improve our services. The department held its second Customer Service Panel July 16, made up of four professionals representing customers who routinely interact with field and counter staff from Building, Zoning and Code Compliance. Panel members shared their experiences and offered suggestions to help us better serve our customers.

A special thanks to panel members: **Drew Hubbell**, Hubbell & Hubbell Architects; **Greg Brown**, General Contractor; **James Chinn**, Architect, Design Build Partners; **Ken Discenza**, Civil Engineer, Site Design Associates, Inc. You can view the video [here](#).

Community Signs and Banners in the Right-of-Way

The Board directed the Department of Public Works (DPW) on Oct. 31, 2012 to develop technical guidelines and amend relevant ordinances to allow the installation of community identification and special event signs and banners in the public right-of-way. DPW and PDS teamed up to get input from community planning and sponsor groups, civic groups, businesses and professional organizations.

Currently, community identification signs are allowed over a public road with some limitations. This project will propose amendments to allow community information signs (for community events), neighborhood and business watch signs, directional signs, community event, street spanning banners and vertical pole-mounted banners in the public right-of-way.

This proposed project will be presented to the Planning Commission for its recommendation at its Nov. 15 meeting and is expected to be presented to the Board for consideration in winter 2014. For additional information, please contact Kenton Jones (DPW) at (858) 694-3843 and by email at kenton.jones@sdcounty.ca.gov or Heather Lingelser (PDS) at (858)-495-5802 and by email at heather.lingelser@sdcounty.ca.gov

Congratulations PDS Building Services Division!

Homes and buildings built in San Diego County are among the safest in the state, thanks to County building codes and staff according to a report card from the Insurance Industry Association.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) review gave PDS' Building Services a classification of "2" – on a grading scale of 1 to 10, with a classification of "1" representing exemplary commitment to building code compliance – for both residential and commercial construction. These classifications place the County of San Diego among the top 1.6 percent of communities graded by ISO nationwide.

Did you know?

There are five types of native oaks in Southern California: Coast Live Oak, Interior Live Oak, California Black Oak, Canyon Live Oak, and California Scrub Oak.

Online Services

[Citizen Access Portal](#)

Research property information and permits. Apply for some permits online.

[GIS Maps](#)

Determine the zoning and characteristics of properties with our web-based mapping tool.



The survey evaluates local building departments based on how well their building codes contribute to public health and safety; and the qualifications, experience, and training of plan review and inspection staff. ISO indicates construction subjected to natural disasters performs better in jurisdictions with well-enforced, up-to-date codes, and the reduced risk of catastrophe-related damage can lower insurance rates.

PDS Debuts Automated Call Service with Inspection Time Estimates

Now PDS customers who have scheduled building inspections can find out when inspectors will arrive with a phone call.

Between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the day of a scheduled inspection, the customer's designated inspection contact will receive a call specifying the expected time frame for the building inspector's arrival. If that time frame changes during the course of the day, the contact will receive a follow-up call with updated information.



Estimated arrival times also will be available online on the day of the inspection via the County's [Citizen Access portal](#)

Oak Trees Under Attack by Beetle



If you plan to burn oak in your fireplace or woodstove this winter, be careful where it came from! Oak trees in San Diego County are being attacked and killed by a beetle called the goldspotted oak borer. The borer's larvae can survive beneath the bark for more than a year after the tree has died or has been cut into firewood. Transporting infested firewood

could carry the borer into areas and spread new outbreaks. The borer has attacked and killed three species of oaks native to this area. It's also cost more than \$8 million in public and private funds – either through efforts to control its spread, such as removing dead trees and infested wood, or by having to close parks and campgrounds due to protect people from hazardous dead trees.

The San Diego County Farm and Home Advisor Office and several County departments have joined the University of California and government agencies in a cooperative effort to address the borer and firewood issues. Research is being conducted to find the best methods to reduce the borer's impact. To date the key strategy to preventing the spread of the pest is managing infested firewood. More information about goldspotted oak borer may be found at www.GSOB.org.

PDS Staff Spotlight - Carl Stiehl



As a Land Use and Environmental Planner with the PDS Advance Planning Division, Carl Stiehl handles comprehensive zoning ordinance changes, such as the Meteorological Testing Ordinance, Farmers Market Ordinance, and the Equine Ordinance, and the many zoning changes that have been produced by the General Plan Update. Carl developed an interest in maps, the outdoors and architecture at an early age. He graduated in 3 ½ years from Arizona State University in 2000 with a Major in Geography and a Minor in European History. In 2001 he accepted a job with the County as a Land Use Technician at the building counter and he's been here ever since.

When not at work, Carl likes to spend time with his wife Rachel and two young children, Elena and Charlie. He also likes to travel, swim at the YMCA (even when the water is 30 degrees in the winter!), and work on his house. Carl's Great-Great Grandfather Stiehl came to New York City from Germany in the 1880s. Carl and his father traveled to Germany in 2006 and discovered that their relatives still operate the original bar they owned back in the 1880s, where they make pork sausages that they export around Germany and Europe!

Welcome Aboard!

Ernie Bartley joined the Land Development Division as a Civil Engineer. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University, and comes to us with 10 years of experience in highway design, plan checking, traffic engineering and flood control. Ernie's knowledge and experience will make him a valued asset to the PDS team and its customers.



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